

IN THE CLAIMS

Claims 1-12 (Canceled).

13 (Previously Presented). A construction for exhaust emission control having an electrically heated catalyst portion in a silencer and provided downstream of a main catalyst portion which is disposed near an internal combustion engine in an exhaust gas flow path pipe of an internal combustion engine, wherein:

said electrically heated catalyst portion is provided so as to penetrate a separator which forms at least two of a first and second expansion chambers by dividing the interior of said silencer;

said electrically heated catalyst portion is formed so as to surround the outer peripheral surface of said exhaust gas flow path pipe which passes through said electrically heated catalyst portion in order to warm the exhaust gas in said exhaust gas flow path pipe, said electrically heated catalyst portion being formed in which the downstream end of said exhaust gas flow path pipe which penetrates said electrically heated catalyst portion opens into said second expansion chamber so that said warmed exhaust gas is introduced into said second expansion chamber and that said warmed exhaust gas flows back through said electrically heated catalyst portion disposed at the outer peripheral surface of said exhaust gas flow path pipe in order to introduce said exhaust gas into said first expansion chamber, said electrically heated catalyst portion being formed in which said exhaust gas introduced into said first expansion chamber is flowed to the outside;

said exhaust gas is warmed to the catalyst activation temperature so that said exhaust gas is controlled by the catalyst in said electrically heated catalyst portion.

14 (Previously Presented). The construction for exhaust emission control according to claim 13, wherein said exhaust gas flow path pipe introduced into said electrically heated catalyst portion branches into a plurality of exhaust gas flow path pipes, the plurality of exhaust gas flow path pipe penetrating said electrically heated catalyst portion.

15 (New). The construction for exhaust emission control according to claim 13, wherein sintering of catalyst metal due to heat from said electrically heated catalyst portion is prevented by controlling the supply of power to said electrically heated catalyst portion.